

The Rhinelander Area Food Pantry

HODAG KIDS 2024-25 REPORT

***Because Full Bellies Make Strong Bodies,
Smart Brains & Happy Hearts.***

**37,360 MEALS
TO KIDS & TEENS
IN OUR
COMMUNITY**

**32 VOLUNTEERS
500 HOURS**

**10 COMMUNITY
PARTNERS
PROVIDED
RESOURCES**

Our Hodag Kids Programs help close the nutrition gap many children and teens face on weekends and throughout the summer.

In 2023–24, enrollment in our Hodag Kids Programs *tripled*, making it clear that families need more support.

To keep pace, we implemented a new service model for 2024–25 by completing the final year of the Weekend Food For Kids Program, reimagining the Hodag Food Wagon, and introducing our new Hodag Monster Meals Program.

Weekend Food For Kids: the “Backpack Program”

Founded in 2011, the Weekend Food For Kids Program ensured that thousands of children had access to supplemental nutrition over the weekend. The program was led by dedicated volunteers and supported by the staff of the School District of Rhinelander. Funding was provided by community donors, grants, and fundraising efforts. Thank you to everyone who helped make Weekend Food For Kids a success.



WEEKEND FOOD FOR KIDS

**2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR:
8,207 MEAL BAGS TO STUDENTS
24,621 MEALS IN 32 WEEKS**

Our decision to phase out the Weekend Food For Kids Program reflects the changing needs in our community and our commitment to providing high-quality nutrition delivered with care. Our partnership with the School District of Rhinelander continues to grow beyond building food security through student leadership opportunities, volunteerism and community engagement.

HODAG MONSTER MEALS



healthy, not scary
free monthly meal bags
for kids & teens at RAFP

A New Take on Food for the Weekend.

In September 2025, RAFP launched the Hodag Monster Meals, a new free monthly meal bag program designed to provide children with consistent access to nutritious foods. Each bag includes fresh items such as milk, eggs, and produce, along with pantry staples and ingredients for quick, healthy meals. Hodag Monster Meals are available for pickup at RAFP from September through June.

No registration is required. Bags are for children aged 18 and under.

Rhinelander Area Food Pantry located at 627 Coon St. Rhinelander, WI 54501

Mailing address: PO Box 1306 Rhinelander, WI 54501 rhinelanderarafoodpantry.org 715-369-7237

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THE HODAG FOOD WAGON SUMMER POP-UPS AT THE PANTY

5 BREAKFASTS &
5 LUNCHES IN
EVERY WEEKLY
MEAL BAG

FOCUS ON FRESH
VEGGIES, PROTEIN
& MILK

12,760 MEALS
TO KIDS & TEENS
IN 8 WEEKS



In the summer of 2025, we relaunched the Hodag Food Wagon, relocating from the front lawn of the Rhinelander District Library to RAFP. By leveraging our facilities and streamlining operations, we were able to provide healthier meal bags, more engaging nutrition education, and opportunities for deeper community connection. Each week, themed pop-ups offered a hands-on snack making station for kids, summer games and free books, and local resources to support households. The RAFP Front Porch featured summer garden boxes featuring vegetables, herbs, and flowers for kids to explore.

Running July through August, the Hodag Food Wagon operates as a Summer Food Service Program site providing free meal bags to kids and teens. No registration is required and we are an equal opportunity service provider.

In 2025, the Hodag Food Wagon provided 12,760 meals to kids and teens in just 8 weeks.



Thank you to our sponsors, funders & community partners.



Hodag Kids keeps families strong. When we invest in our kids, we invest in our community.

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